

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 RSR-01 /083 W

----- 016694

R 091141 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2190

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5555

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF PRESS REPORT ABOUT RTG/ CPT CONTACT

REF: STATE 064381

1. WHEN THE LOCAL PRESS IN MID- FEBRUARY REPORTED NARONG AS CLAIMING CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST INSURGENT LEADERSHIP, WE INQUIRED AND RECEIVED FROM SAIYUD THE CATEGORICAL DISCLAIMER REPORTED IN MEMCON OF FEBRUARY 20. AN INTIMATE OF THE PRAPASS HOUSEHOLD, A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, RECENTLY TOLD US THAT PRAPASS CHIDED NARONG FOR " TRYING TO TALK TO GHOSTS", AND -- IN THE CONTEXT OF DOUBTING THAT NARONG HAD ANY CREDIBLE DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY -- WARNED HIM THAT IN ANY EVENT THE CT HAS NO STANDING FROM WHICH TO PUT FORTH CONDITONS FOR ACCEPTING THE GOVERNMENT' S GENERAL " GODDESS OF MERCY" AMNESTY OFFER.

2. THE COMMUNIST CLANDESTINE RADIO (VOPT) ON FEBRUARY 17 CALLED NARONG' S CLAIM THAT A CPT LEADER WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE " ANOTHER DESPICABLE TRICK EMPLOYED BY THE THANOM/ PRAPASS CLIQUE AT THE INSTRUCTION OF ITS MASTER, U. S. IMPERIALISM", AND CALLED IT " FABRICATED PROPAGANDA TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE INTO LAYING DOWN THEIR ARMS." WE DO NOT THINK THE ORIGINAL PRESS REPORT WAS RTG PROPAGANDA, AS IT INTIMATES THAT THE PRESENCE OF U. S. FORCES AND MALFEASANCE IN GOVERNMENT ARE THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF

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INSURGENCY -- WHICH THE RTG DENIES. INTERESTINGLY, THE COMMUNIST BROADCAST DENIAL MADE NO REFERENCE TO THESE THEMES. ALTHOUGH THE VOPT FREQUENTLY ATTACKS THE RTG BOTH FOR MALFEASANCE AND U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE, IT HAS NEVER SUGGESTED THAT THE INSURGENCY MIGHT SETTLE WITH THE RTG IF THESE FACTORS WERE REMOVED. INDEED, OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT THAI LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE FUNDAMENTAL WITH THE CPT, AND THE ISSUES CITED ARE ESSENTIALLY STICKS WITH WHICH TO BEAT THE REGIME. NARONG MAY HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO LOCAL CT IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA OF HIS REGIMENT, ASKING ABOUT SURRENDER TERMS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE NOW REALIZES IT WAS AN ILL- ADVISED INITIATIVE. CHALK UP ANOTHER ERROR FOR NARONG'S OFT- EXERCISED PENCHANT FOR SELF- ADVERTISEMENT. UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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